

DAILY PRAYERS

for
LEADERS

Originally Written for
PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD

by
BILLY ZEOLI

Preface by
RICH DEVOS

Daily Prayers for Leaders

Originally Written for President Gerald R. Ford

by Billy Zeoli

Preface by Rich DeVos

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**I dedicate this book to
Rich DeVos,
man of God.**

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Preface

Billy Zeoli and I have been friends for a long time, and he is one of the most remarkable Christians I have ever known. I have heard him pray with world leaders in sports, business, and government. He has always been just as comfortable and effective praying in the boardroom, the locker room, and the White House.

Billy (or “Z” as many of us call him) wrote the prayers in this book for our mutual friend, President Gerald R. Ford, when he was in office. It was a time when the United States was in turmoil, and President Ford faced many difficult issues, from the war in Vietnam to the pardoning of President Richard Nixon.

As a result, the prayers in this book are timeless sources of wisdom, strength, and courage for all of us who face difficult decisions in a complicated world. Billy probably had no idea at the time that the prayers he was writing for one American president would become valuable prayers for all leaders in every area of society.

If you read one of these short prayers daily you will be blessed. You will face each day’s opportunities and trials with greater insight and deeper faith. And you will be a better leader, filled with God’s strength and grace for the journey ahead.

I thank God for calling Billy to write these prayers for President Ford and for all of us who seek with open hearts to be faithful servant leaders.

Rich DeVos

Introduction to the 2014 Edition

As I wrote in the 1978 version of this book, then titled *God's Got a Better Idea*, President Gerald R. and Betty Ford hosted my family at the White House for the last time six days before the Fords were moving out. It was January 17, 1977, and at one point Jerry and I were in the Oval Office, where we reminisced about many events and conversations that occurred during his presidency.

Before we left that famous room, Jerry said to me, "Billy, you've prayed for me in this office many times. Now, let me pray for you."

That was the Jerry I knew. He was always looking out for the interests of other people. He was not a mere politician seeking to advance his career or bring attention to himself. He was humble, honest, and very intelligent.

I got to know Jerry quite well. We met together over thirty times for Bible studies.

I initially wrote the prayers in this book at Ford's request during his time in office. I was deeply honored. He suggested that we put the prayers in a book and title it "*God's Got a Better Idea*."

When my colleague Dr. Quentin J. Schultze recently suggested that I publish a digital revision of the original book of prayers I had written weekly for President Ford, I was not sure what it even meant. I have never been technologically advanced. I always tried to communicate with people as much as possible in person, on the phone, or in written form—in that order.

But Dr. Schultze explained that my prayers for Ford would serve well today as prayerful daily devotions for leaders in all fields. The language needed to be updated, along with the Bible translation (now the NIV rather than the KJV). Published as an ebook, these prayers and the accompanying Scriptures could be read daily on a phone, pad, or computer. And the Bible passages could be linked directly through the Internet to the Bible Gateway, which Gospel

Communications International developed in the mid-1990s while I was CEO. Amazing!

I have always held that the message is more important than the medium, and that those who truly aim to serve others should consider using all of the means available. So how could I not publish this digital book as a way of serving leaders around the world?

By revising and republishing *God's Got a Better Idea* as *Daily Prayers for Leaders*, I also hope once again to honor the memory of President Ford and his family. They were so gracious—and still are—to me and my family. May this book encourage all of us, as it originally did President Ford, to seek to be faithful in our daily stations in business, education, sports, government, ministry, and all of the other careers that shape modern culture around the world.

Special thanks to Doug DeVos for encouraging me with his unique brand of love and loyalty. Doug, you're a gem.

Finally, I wish to thank most of all my best friend, Rich DeVos, for his gracious words in support of this book. Rich, you and I together have been richly blessed to serve so many other people, who, in turn, served us with the prayers that we needed at critical times in our lives. So from my heart to yours, thanks once again for believing in me and encouraging me to believe in the One I mention at the end of all of my letters, as I do below.

In His Love and mine,

“Z”

AN APPRECIATION

by.

Gerald R. Ford

When I was asked to write this Appreciation for *God's Got a Better Idea*, I was honored, but, I must admit, I was somewhat uncertain about which course to follow. Should my words be directed toward the material which in itself is irrefutable since it is based upon the Bible? Or should they be focused on the man who prepared it, Billy Zeoli, an irrepressible Christian, a religious leader of tremendous influence? Either presented a substantial challenge. Ultimately I chose the man because I have come to recognize him as an alter ego, a second self. Let me explain.

Admittedly, Billy and I are each blessed with a wonderful wife and family.

For many years we have called Michigan our home state.

Also, we have a mutual interest in sports, particularly football—Billy through his own special and widely acclaimed ministry among its professional athletes, and myself as a former player who remains an avid fan.

And I suppose you could say that our chosen careers have kept us both in the public arena—his as the man and mentor behind Gospel Films, Inc., which is involved in the production of evangelistic motion pictures spreading the Word of God worldwide, and mine in law, and in the legislative and executive branches of our government.

But perhaps the greatest bond which exists between us is that we have both put our trust in Christ, our Saviour, and have relied on Him for direction and guidance throughout our lives.

Lastly, we share a friendship which has transcended the years, with love and respect and understanding.

It is that *understanding* which I wish to consider here in these few pages—Billy's singular brand. The capacity to be thoroughly familiar with the character and propensities and problems of one's fellowman is a rare quality, indeed. Billy Zeoli possesses that golden gift and shares it with many. He

shared it with me, and *God's Got a Better Idea* corroborates that.

In the fall of 1973, shortly after my nomination to fill the vacancy in the office of Vice-President of the United States, there began arriving every Monday morning at my desk a message from Billy. Each contained a Verse from Scripture and a Prayer relating to that Verse which he had especially written for me. He sent them under the heading of "God's Got a Better Idea."

Those weekly messages followed me into the Oval Office and continued throughout my presidential tenure. There were 146 in all. Not only were they profound in their meaning and judicious in their selection, I believe they were also divinely inspired. Billy Zeoli was the instrument.

Historians may one day draw a correlation between the events of those three years and the contents of the pages, so thoughtfully composed and here—in this volume—reproduced. I leave that to them.

I can only say that I was deeply affected by each of the "Ideas." Some served as inspiration, some as guidance, some to assuage the fear and foreboding in the making of important decisions, and some to carry me through times of personal crises.

Billy touched upon many areas—love, responsibility, criticism, attitude, sensitivity, trust, values, wisdom, worship, even Christmas, and always with that inherent sense of *understanding*.

Two in particular come immediately to mind. One relates to righteousness, the other to my "five treasures," my wife and four children.

In the former he chose this Verse: "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people" ([Proverbs 14:34 KJV](#)). His accompanying Prayer is moving in its simplicity: "I thank You for the privilege I have not only as a citizen of 'God's Country,' but as a citizen of the United

States of America. I am grateful for the pride I feel when I think of what this Nation has accomplished. Father, do not let this great Country drift further from the true spiritual moorings which made us what we are. May I, as a person, and this Nation as a whole, be guided by moral and spiritual objectives. May our righteousness exalt this Nation. Guide us so that we do not follow the path of expediency and find reproach upon us.”

While this “Idea” reflected upon my public life, the following one touched upon my private life and intuitively Billy knew of my need to be sensitive to and grateful for its gifts: “The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad!” ([Psalms 126:3 KJV](#)). It elicited this meditation: “Lord, help me never, even unconsciously, to hide my love for my wonderful wife and four precious children. They stand in the reflected glare of my public office and just by being my family endure pressures not experienced by other Americans. Keep me mindful of their needs, with time to listen to their problems and sensitivity to be understanding, even when they don’t bother to confide. Thank you for these five treasures!”

Understanding, Billy’s unique gift, manifested itself early in childhood. I have heard him tell the story of his father, a burglar and a drug addict, a penniless Italian who never got beyond the fifth grade. The Philadelphia ghetto was his home and his teachers, street hoodlums.

For his crimes he was sent to prison. One day a copy of the New Testament was tossed into his cell. Upon opening it his eyes rested on the passage, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” ([Matthew 24:35 KJV](#)), and it changed his life. When he was released from prison, he became an ordained Baptist minister and would captivate his congregation with stories of his past and how the Lord had changed him.

In the words of the son, "He married my mother, who was singing in the church choir while studying for the opera. I was born in Philadelphia and as a youngster had to stay in the church basement during my father's confessions. My parents did not want me to know about his past sins. But when I was six, I happened to reach up and turn the dials of the loudspeaker system that carried his voice downstairs. I heard it all, and had more love and understanding of my father than ever before. I decided then to follow him in the ministry."

Although the Verses and Prayers in *God's Got a Better Idea* were initially directed to me, they are for all believers in His Word, for all who would seek His help. It is an honor and a privilege to share them. I am eternally indebted to Billy Zeoli for *his* understanding.

Introduction to the 1978 Edition

“What is he like?” people ask me. “What is Gerald Ford really like?”

Curiosity about a man who was President of the United States is natural, and people want to know about Gerald Ford. What kind of man is he close up, away from the television cameras, newspaper photos, and the imposing trappings of the White House? Apart from the press conferences, the formal speeches, and the glitter of the most powerful office in the world, what kind of person is he, really?

People ask me about Gerald Ford because we are friends, and our friendship has been widely publicized. In a way, it's something any person with a normal-sized ego must get used to, being known as “a friend of ———,” especially if the “friend” is President of the United States. You pick up a newspaper or magazine and see yourself described as “a friend of ———,” and, at first, it does require a certain ego adjustment! But this friendship is so rich, so important, it is worth that and much, much more. The kind of friendship I have with Gerald Ford can happen only when one's friend is an extraordinary individual—like Gerald Ford.

So, whenever people ask me about him, want to know what kind of person he really is, I enjoy talking about him. He is one of the most remarkable men I've ever met.

What is so extraordinary about Jerry Ford? What are the characteristics that set him apart from ordinary men? First of all, I think, his integrity ... his rocklike loyalty ... his fairness toward people and genuine concern for them ... his total lack of pretension ... his ability to laugh at himself and acknowledge his mistakes. And always—perhaps most of all—his willingness to rely on God, to let his faith in Christ operate quietly, constantly, in his everyday life. Those things and more I could tell you about Gerald Ford. Perhaps they sound like the standard list of admirable qualities, but I have seen them lived out in Ford's life so many times that I

will rarely use the words *honest, loyal, compassionate*, again, without thinking of him.

If you could see him in all the circumstances and situations that I have seen, you would know exactly what I mean.

I first met my congressman, Jerry Ford, in 1963 when I called on him in his congressional office in Grand Rapids, Michigan. While I was sitting in his outer office, a couple came out of his private office; a very heavyset woman—I mean *heavyset*—and her very skinny husband. She was poking him in the ribs and saying, “I told you! If you had come to see Jerry about this a week ago, he’d have taken care of it *then*.”

I started to laugh. Just then Congressman Ford appeared in the doorway, saw me laughing, and smiled. The rapport between us was immediate.

During the next eight or nine years, we were together fairly regularly. In Washington, it was for events such as the prayer luncheons for athletes which were held in the congressional dining room. Mr. Ford and I served as cochairmen. Jerry enjoys being with professional athletes.

When he was in Grand Rapids, we would meet for discussion and prayer together.

Neither Jerry nor I suspected it, but God was drawing us together for a special friendship.

In late summer of 1973, Congressman Ford asked me to bring my wife, Marilyn, and our children to Washington that fall to open a session of the House of Representatives with prayer. We went down in October, and, after checking into a hotel, we found a sidewalk cafe and sat down to eat. A young man came running along the sidewalk shouting and cheering.

“Hey,” I asked, “what’s going on?”

“Don’t you know? Vice-President Agnew just resigned!”

I had prepared a prayer to read before the House of Representatives the next morning. I was convinced it was at least as good as Martin Luther's Ninety-five Theses. When I read it to Marilyn, she said, "Z, it isn't you. It doesn't sound like you, and you don't read it well." She was right. This, with the important new development of the Agnew resignation, caused me to return to the hotel to prepare another prayer.

The next morning, Marilyn and I took the children to Jerry's office in the House of Representatives' wing of the Capitol Building. He was then minority leader of the House, and his name was being suggested all over Washington that day as a possible nominee for the Vice-Presidency. After I had delivered the prayer, my family and I stayed on to observe the proceedings for about an hour, and then Jerry took us downstairs to the House dining room. Film crews from the major networks were after him for his comments on the vice-presidential situation. Congressional leaders of both parties were saying, "This is the man for the job!" They obviously regarded him as a man of integrity and impeccable character. I placed a note on his office desk as my family and I left the House of Representatives. The note said that I believed he was the man whom God had chosen for that job. It was not really my style to do that sort of thing. It was part of the special relationship which I believe God was creating between Jerry and me.

Two days later, we saw the television announcement of Gerald R. Ford's nomination to the office of Vice-President of the United States.

Shortly after that Washington visit, I mentioned to Jerry my idea of sending him a memo every week. He was enthusiastic. We decided to call it "God's Got a Better Idea." I arranged to mail one each Friday from my Gospel Films office in Muskegon, Michigan, timed to reach him the following Monday. The first one was dated October 22, 1973.

Jerry always managed to let me know that he appreciated the weekly “Idea”; sometimes it was a personal call or letter, sometimes it was through a staff member. Subsequently, I visited Jerry in Washington almost every month. We spent time talking and reading the Word of God, and praying together.

I spent the summer of 1974 in Switzerland to study at L’Abri with Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer and had prepared twelve “God’s Got a Better Idea” devotionals before leaving, so that one could be sent to Jerry each week as scheduled. The news from home was full of Watergate and there were indications that President Nixon could not survive politically. Early in August, the European press was predicting that Nixon’s presidency would end soon, either through resignation or by impeachment. I telephoned Jerry at his home in Alexandria, Virginia. His spirit was warm, and he would not predict what was going to happen. I suggested that we pray together when I returned to the States.

Jerry said, “You can pray there now, and I can pray here now.”

Linked together from Bavaria to Virginia by much more than a telephone cable, we prayed audibly for God’s wisdom and guidance.

Does it matter that the President of the United States has a deep personal faith in God? Does it really make any difference to have a Christian in the White House? I believe it does. Jerry Ford understood the principles and values of the Word of God, and consequently he had a perspective, a philosophy, a frame of reference that is different. Throughout his presidency he would wrestle constantly with the questions: “What are the moral implications here? What is the right thing?” His Christian philosophy of life would give him constant concern that he did not do merely the easy thing, or the politically expedient thing, but the right

thing in the moral sense. Yes, it makes a great deal of difference to have that kind of man in the White House.

On August 9, 1974, Gerald Ford's inaugural speech reached us through a portable radio in Germany. It was a very emotional moment for us. I know that the words he shared from his heart that day moved this nation to new hope and courage. It was one of those moments when the bonds that hold people together in Christ were particularly strong.

I had promised to call Jerry when we returned home. It was a new experience to call the White House, and I left word that I had phoned, not really expecting a reply that day. The call came less than an hour later. I was surprised to hear Jerry's voice. I didn't know whether to call him Mr. President, Jerry, or Mr. Ford. I ended up putting them all together and it came out poorly. He suggested that I call him Jerry—just as I always had—and I did. He talked with everyone in my family and wanted to make sure that I was coming to Washington in three days for our usual Bible study and prayer. Frankly, because of his new responsibilities I really thought that our meeting might have to be postponed.

"Are you able to come, Billy?"

"I certainly am."

"Are you too busy to make it?"

"No, I'll make it."

"Well, come on, and I'll see you at one-thirty."

"Jerry, I'm a little confused. I don't know how to get into the White House. What do I do?"

"Just tell them you're coming to see me, and use my name. It will really work wonders."

I did just that, and it did work wonders!

I'm a very patriotic person and admittedly emotional at times. My first visit to the Oval Office was such an occasion. I walked in, put my arm around the President of the United

States. We chatted for a while, then read from the Bible, and prayed together.

That was the beginning of three exciting years of sharing the positive message of Christ with President Ford, through both good and difficult situations. We met every four or five weeks and eventually moved our time alone together from the Oval Office to the upstairs family quarters in the White House. Our monthly prayer time would begin with breakfast—just the two of us—in the private dining room. We would read the Word of God and pray together. Then I would walk with him to the Oval Office, visit with a few friends, before going to spend time with the First Lady, Mrs. Betty Ford. It was never routine. Sharing with people whom you love that much, at a place like the White House, could never become commonplace!

I saw Gerald Ford as President in good times and bad, and I got to know something about the man. I saw his warmth toward others, his concern in little things—there was the time he offered to have my son Steve come to the White House so he could encourage him about his grades at school: “Let me talk to him, Billy. I’ve had three boys. You just stay out of it and let me talk to him.” I felt his concern when Marilyn broke her leg skiing and was hospitalized. The Fords called three times in one day to check on her and to offer suggestions about my running the household in her absence!

When I say that Jerry is unpretentious, I remember little things: the time when my visit to the White House was longer than usual, he picked up the phone and asked one of his staff to cancel a plane reservation for me. He then arranged for me to spend the night at the White House. Or the way he would apologize for security precautions around him—even after two assassination attempts. Sometimes he would hear jokes told about himself on television and laugh at those that poked fun at him. He never came to think of

himself as bigger-than-life, nor was he hypersensitive to criticism, even when he thought it was unfair. He listened, squared his shoulders, and went on. He's that kind of man.

When I talk about his integrity and his courage, I'm not just using empty words. Time after time I saw him in the pressures of the world's toughest job. He would not budge an inch from his basic principles. For all his warmth and gentleness, he is a tough, resilient man. Nothing ever bent him away from his bedrock values. He is made of sturdy stuff, Gerald Ford, and when he found himself, unexpectedly, in the toughest job on earth, facing the task of pulling together a divided, disillusioned nation, he measured up. He was strong enough to get the job done.

Jerry Ford has vast inner resources, and his faith in God is an important part of that. He is a growing, maturing disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, a thinking Christian. Christianity for him is an internal personal matter, never something to call attention to. He could have done many things to get political mileage from his Christian life, but he stoutly refused to do so. Faith in God, to the Fords, is a personal and a family matter, a source of strength. One gets the feeling that, whatever they face, they'll come through because they trust in God and in each other.

In September of 1974, I was on a preaching mission in Findlay, Ohio. I had finished the evening service and gone to dinner when I received an urgent phone call from my wife. Betty Ford was to undergo a biopsy and possibly further surgery the next morning. I made a phone call to Washington and reached another friend of the Fords, who told me, "Betty wants you to come to see her before she goes into the operating room."

Arranging for a flight out of Findlay, Ohio, in the early hours of the morning wasn't easy.

I arrived at the hospital an hour before the operation was to begin. I spent a few minutes with Betty, reading the Bible

and praying. She was such a confident person—so certain that this was what must be done, whatever the findings would be. Admiral Lukash, the Fords' White House doctor, was there with us some of the time. Susan Ford arrived later. What the doctors had suspected was true, and it was necessary to perform a mastectomy. I was asked to call Steve and Jack Ford and tell them of their mother's condition. Mike was there with us. We managed to locate Jack and Steve out West. It was a difficult situation which tested everyone.

At the time, the President was involved in a major national economic conference in the nation's capital. When the Saturday-afternoon session ended, he flew to the hospital to be with his wife. When the helicopter landed and he came into the room, Jerry and I sat down and we prayed briefly together. He asked me to read the verses I had shared earlier with Betty. I've never seen him quite so moved by anything as by Betty's surgery.

Later that night the family and I went to the White House for dinner and then drove back to the hospital. We did not know what to expect, so we quietly entered Betty's room. She cheerfully waved us in; the President's relief was obvious. All of us were delighted and a bit awed by her courage. That experience brought me closer to the First Lady than ever before. Many, many times, I would call the White House just to say hello to her and see how she was doing. We could talk for forty-five minutes or an hour. Usually we would close our conversation with a quiet time of prayer. Although it isn't my habit to pray with people on the telephone, the Fords made me feel at ease and natural in doing it.

Our last visit to the White House was January 17, 1977. The Fords were to move out in three days, but had invited my entire family for a visit knowing how much it would mean to Steve, Patti, and David. Jerry and I were alone in the Oval

Office, and we reminisced about many things. Before I left, he said to me, "Billy, you've prayed for me in this office many times. Now, let me pray for you." That's the memory I cherish of Jerry Ford as President. In his last few days in the White House, he was thinking, typically, not of what I could do for him, but what he could do for me.

We share many things in common, Jerry Ford and I, but the most significant bond between us is our love for Jesus Christ. He has seen the most powerful institutions of man, has been advised by this country's most brilliant intellectuals, has supervised its most complex and far reaching programs—but Jerry Ford has never lost sight of the fact that God's got a better idea! Always and forever God has a better idea. I am so glad that I had a chance to be a part of this one!

Strength and Boldness

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

[Joshua 1:9 NIV](#)

My Dear Father,

As I pray for strength and boldness, I pray for the wisdom to use them properly.

Remove not only fear and doubt, but their bedfellows of worry and anxiety.

Also, God, free me from the emotional turmoil that causes my stomach to need "Spiritual Tums,"

And may I never forget that because Your Son, Christ, is my Savior,

Wherever I go, You go with me!

Dear God, may my life experience the peace of this verse this coming week.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, my alive Savior,

AMEN

Truth and Kindness

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

[Proverbs 3:3-6 NIV](#)

Dear God,

It is honest to admit that I want favor with others, that I want to be known for both common sense and good judgment.

But it is also true, my God, that I want favor with You because I am part of Your family through Your Son, Jesus Christ.

I ask You to allow me to have both favor with You and with my neighbors.

I want to put You first in my life and ask You to guide and direct me, and I will give You the honor for any success I achieve.

Bless those around me who have worked especially hard to help me achieve this honor.

May the marriage of truth and kindness be enhanced by the moving of Your Spirit in my life.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Good News About Christ

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

[Romans 1:16-17 NIV](#)

Dear God,

How thankful I am that I have the Good News that You make us ready for heaven when we put our faith in Your Son, Christ, to save us.

How grateful I am that I have done this.

Sometimes, God, it's hard to have faith because faith means we believe in Someone without seeing Him.

May my faith grow more and more as I trust in You.

Most of all, God, allow me not to be ashamed about my knowing Your Son as my Savior.

May I be as excited about knowing Christ and sharing Him as I am about rooting for my favorite sports team.

As I share Christ's Good News may it be just that to all who hear it!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Waiting Upon the Lord

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

[Isaiah 40:31 NIV](#)

Dear God,

Teach me to wait.

It is so hard for me to wait.

God, may I not wait upon circumstance.

May I not wait upon people.

May I not wait upon plans.

May I wait upon You.

God, may I learn the difference between waiting upon You, and vacillating between people.

And from that waiting and because it is You I am waiting upon, may my strength be renewed.

May weariness of soul and faintness of heart not be a part of the vocabulary of my life.

But as my strength comes from You and the quality of my patience matures, may that strength of the eagle's wings give me the ability to soar—higher and higher and higher—

Until, with calmness of heart, I look over my problems and say,

“It has been good to wait upon You, my God. Thank you for being my source of strength. Teach me to wait on the Lord!”

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Working With Heart

In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered.

[2 Chronicles 31:21 NIV](#)

O God,

How do I learn to do things with all my heart?

Sometimes, Lord, I feel fainthearted, sometimes I feel halfhearted, sometimes I don't even care.

Yet, other times, I'm willing to give all I have.

God, teach me in every work that I do, to seek You and to give myself completely.

Keep me from being frustrated by people who demand more of my time than I think they should have.

Keep me from developing a complacent attitude that says it's not worth 100 percent.

Give me the security that comes from You which allows me to say to others,

"I'll do it with all my heart!"

And to you, my God, may I say,

"I give all of my heart to seek You."

May I learn to prosper in God's sight, even though that prosperity is not always what it seems in humans' sight.

God, You and I know that I am a Christian. May we both become pleased with the commitment of my heart to You and to my neighbors.

In the Name of Christ who gave His all, AMEN

Lamp Unto My Feet

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. . . . Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

[Psalms 119:11, 105 NIV](#)

Dear God,

I hide many thoughts, many ideas, and many dreams deep inside my heart.

But God, let me learn to hide Your Word in my heart.

For if Your Word is there it will help me sift the good from the evil.

It will stop me from condoning things I do and say, and most important of all, it will pull me in the direction I need to go—toward You.

Your Son, Christ, is the light of the world and Your Word has the power to illuminate and clarify which way the path of righteousness leads.

May this prayer not just be repetitious rabble, but may I really learn Your Word and make it my word.

When temptations come, Lord, and we both know they will come, may my heart be so garrisoned by Your word that I face them in Your strength.

In the Name of Jesus Christ the Living Word of God, AMEN

Judging and Understanding

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

[1 Samuel 16:7 NIV](#)

Dear God,

Help me not to judge someone too quickly or too harshly by that which appears to be obvious.

May I understand that other people see me and draw immediate conclusions.

Therefore, dear God, let my heartbeat for You be shown by my life—its actions and statements, both verbal and nonverbal.

Lord, You know me for You know my heart.

You see dearly through the outward facade and You know me.

May the person You know grow more and more to be the kind of person You want, and the kind of person You can use.

Help me keep my heart clean, for out of that heart comes the motivations of my life.

Teach me, God, to look beyond the apparent, beyond the obvious.

Help me to see people for what they are, what they can be, rather than what they appear to be.

God, in the responsibilities that I now have, may You be pleased as You look at my heart, and may I look at other people as You would look at them!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Christmas

Sir . . . we would like to see Jesus.

[John 12:21 NIV](#)

Dear God,

If there is ever a time of the year when people are aware of Jesus, Your Son, it is Christmas.

But God, do they really see Him?

Do they see who He really is?

Do they see what He came to do?

Do they see what He can be to them?

O God, may they see that Jesus is not just a baby in a manger, that His meaning is not just the biggest birthday party of all time, that His birthday does not mean tinsel on the inside and tinsel on the outside.

But how will people see Jesus?

Lord, most of them will not ask to see Him. Most people will simply observe.

They will observe people like me, people who have seen Him.

God, my prayer is that the real Jesus will be seen in me!

In Your Name, AMEN

Worship

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; . . . and beheld your power and your glory. . . . Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.

[Psalms 63:1-3 NIV](#)

Dear God,

You are infinitely perfect and worthy of infinite adoration.

I can offer no greater proof of my love than by presenting the worship that I owe.

This I willingly do from the depths of my being. See this worship.

Help me to offer it unceasingly until it becomes the normal daily habit of my life.

In Jesus' precious Name, AMEN

Self-examination

Everyone ought to examine themselves. . . .

[1 Corinthians 11:28 NIV](#)

Gracious Lord,

Help me to examine myself to find out what virtues I lack,
especially those that are hardest to acquire.

May I then, in perfect confidence, abide steadfast in Your
presence

asking for Your grace,

finding Your strength,

knowing Your power,

and, in everything I attempt to do,

Glorify Your wonderful Name! AMEN

Heaven's Vantage Point

When they saw the courage . . . they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

[Acts 4:13 NIV](#)

Dear Lord,

I do not live in “normal” times.

I live among people who, via television, have seen the world from the moon, but who are so uninformed of Thy truth that they’ve never seen the world from Heaven’s vantage point.

So, this week, help me

To be enlightening—

To be inspirational—

To be nourishing—

To people who are hungry for hope based upon the truth of God.

Let me say things of such value that the world would be poorer if they were left unsaid.

Help me to help people to love You.

For Your glory, AMEN

Ask, Seek, Knock

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you.*

[Matthew 7:7 NIV](#)

Lord,
I face another busy, hectic week.
Give me a sense of humor—the power to laugh.
Help me to do my homework—to be keenly observant.
Make me uniquely qualified to stand tall.
Create in me a heart that is unafraid!
Give me moments of quietness that I might enjoy
Your presence, and
Love You more!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Treasures

Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

[Psalms 126:2-3 NIV](#)

Lord,

Help me never, even unconsciously, to hide my love for my wonderful family.

They stand in the reflected glare of my office and just by being my family endure special pressures.

Keep me mindful of their needs, with time to listen to their problems and sensitivity to be understanding, even when they don't bother to confide.

Thank You for these treasures!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Gifts

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline.

[2 Timothy 1:7 NIV](#)

Dear God,

Thank You for Your gifts!

Though wonderfully blessed, I do face awesome responsibilities.

Help me never to be afraid.

Let me grapple with the tasks of this week with an easy mind, confident of Your presence.

Fill every area of my life so that there is no room for failure

That always comes from within.

With Your strength in my life I know that I will be sufficient for each task.

In Jesus' Name I pray, AMEN

Love

Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away. If one were to give all the wealth of one's house for love, it would be utterly scorned.

[Song of Songs 8:7 NIV](#)

Dear Lord,

I thank You for the consciousness that I am loved.

Loved by my family.

Loved by my friends.

Loved by a host of people whose names I do not know.

Most of all, I thank You that You love me!

Help me this week to keep my heart young and my eyes open so that nothing worthy of notice will escape me.

May I be cheerful in my contact with others and although the waters be swift, may they not put out the flame of love that You have put into my life.

Thank You for loving me just as I am!

I pray in the Name of Jesus Christ who loved me,

And gave Himself for me, AMEN

Conquering

In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

[Romans 8:37 NIV](#)

Dear Lord,

That verse sounds extremely positive in light of the negative moments we have in our lives.

There are moments of difficulty that make this verse very hard to understand!

When we have smooth going and rapid progress, make me able to leave the good road for the rough way, where life is heavy and sometimes burdensome.

Let these detours teach me to be wise, and teach me to learn the importance of responding to people with greater energy.

Let the rough places that I face cause greater enthusiasm for fellowship with You.

May these rough places help me from falling into defeat.

Help me to learn to capitalize on the very high purposes which You have created within me as I serve You and people in this great land.

May Your love cause me to LIVE LOVE!

In Jesus' Name I pray, AMEN

God's Love

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

[Romans 5:8 NIV](#)

Dear God,

Why would You ever love me when I was so unworthy?

It is such good news that You care for and love those who are sinners.

Allow me this week to live as You would have me to live—to love all people, even in difficult situations.

Help me to stand for proper ideals,

Help me to act to improve the lives of others,

Help me to battle against injustice in every form.

Somehow, even though I am unworthy, let other people feel a ripple of love through my life.

Set me ablaze inside with a love for God and for people so that this love will warm Your heart as well as theirs.

I will not forget, dear God, that You loved me just as I was and, now, just as I am.

May I do the same for other people!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Christ is Risen!

He is not here; he has risen. . . .

[Matthew 28:6 NIV](#)

Dear God,

What a great thought—to know that Your Son is not dead in a Jerusalem grave, but alive in my heart!

Thank You, God, for Easter, and for allowing me, through my trust in Your arisen Son, to be a member of Your family.

May Your power—that overthrew the grave—cause me to shout

"FOR ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST!"

May the problems I face daily be overpowered by the resounding cry of

"CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!"

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Answers

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

[Jeremiah 33:3 NIV](#)

Dear Lord,

At times everyone feels like they are being tested.

Right now I feel as though I am being tested, and I need heavenly guidance for my earthly deeds as well as ultimate answers to immediate problems.

Help me to be properly related in a harmonious relationship to my family, my co-workers, and my friends—but most of all, dear Lord—

Keep me in a proper relationship with Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who experienced the ultimate testing for me!

In the name of Your Son, Jesus, AMEN

Rest

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

[Matthew 11:28 NIV](#)

Dear God,

People are asking for rest, all kinds of rest—

Rest for minds, rest for bodies, and rest for their spirits.

May I learn from You that the secret of rest is to come unto You.

It is not always easy to come to You because, often, I stand in the way.

Pride, selfishness, and the desires of my heart block my way.

And, Lord, as I come unto You, may I learn more and more to allow people to come to me.

As You give me rest and peace and depth of soul may I do my best to meet the needs of those who come to me. May I accomplish this through Your strength and power.

Thank You for Your love-filled promise, “I will give you rest!”

In Jesus’ Name, AMEN

Following God's Example

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved Children.

[Ephesians 5:1 NIV](#)

Dear God,

I must admit that I look at people and sometimes try to follow their example but often I am let down.

My children follow me and I know at times they, too, are let down.

God, here it is plain and clear and straight from Your Word—I am to follow Your example.

This is hard for me to do because both of us know me really well. Yet, I am to follow You, God, as my leader.

Lord, I am not always sure that I will be able to follow You, but I will try.

This week as I face problems, people with needs, and people who may be against me,

May I not only follow Your example, but may I follow the principles You have lovingly stated for me to follow.

God, I thank You that I will be better able to lead others, as I follow You!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Talent and Responsibility.

Much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

[Luke 12:48 NIV](#)

Lord,

Sometimes I like to think I am very talented and that I have a lot to offer.

Yet, when I read Your Word, Lord, and see this verse, I back off.

Because if I do have some talent—even a little bit—I will be required to use it properly.

Thank You, Lord, for a verse like this that helps me to balance myself.

Whatever talents You have given me, Lord, I want to be responsible to You for them.

I want to use these talents well for Your honor and Your glory.

Do not let me be double-minded, Lord, talking big about talent when there is no price to pay, and then slacking off when I realize that I will be held accountable.

God, You really have a way of making me face myself
Thanks for this!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Being Faithful

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

[Matthew 25:23 NIV](#)

Lord,

Please help me to be faithful.

You know how much I appreciate it when people say to me, "Well done! Good job!"

O God, it would make my life on earth worthwhile, if someday You will say to me, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

God, help me to be faithful even in the small things I do.

Teach me to be faithful, not just to people or principles.

Help me, Lord, to be ever faithful to You.

Through faith in Christ, AMEN

Sensitivity

Jesus wept.

[John 11:35 NIV](#)

Dear God,

Let me be compassionate.

Let me be able to see the needs of people and let those needs move me.

May I be the kind of person who can weep—not afraid to cry, not afraid that I will ruin some false image.

May I realize that You cried—because You cared!

Please help me to avoid becoming hardened, O Lord, even to the little things.

Teach me to be sensitive—sensitive enough, if need be, to cry—and then, for Your sake, to do something about the need.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

God's Armor

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

[Ephesians 6:10-11 NIV](#)

Dear Lord,

I am being pulled in many directions.

I am being stretched tight.

Everywhere I go, people demand attention.

Help me to face my limitations and hold me together with an inward peace—a peace that will keep me steady under pressure.

Give depth to my speech and significance to my actions.

In a trying hour, let *me* be *Your* servant.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Truth

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

[John 8:32 NIV](#)

Dear Lord,

Everyone seems to be searching for truth today.

Perhaps more than any other time in my life, I am aware of how important truth is.

Teach me to know more than surface truth—that I may face the realization that YOU ARE TRUTH. Lord, You are the ultimate truth!

As I develop my values through You, Your truth shall make me free.

I shall be free from confusion.

I shall be free from the constant pecking away of human doubt.

I shall be free from the insecurity of not knowing which way to go.

God, I thank You that I know You. May Your truth not only march on through me—but may it penetrate the very essence of my being!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Prayer and Praying

When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray. . . .”

[Luke 11:1 NIV](#)

O Lord,
What a prayer to pray to You!
I am praying to You to ask You, Lord, to teach me to pray.
Lord, I need to know not only how to pray but how to pray regularly.

Sometimes it is my fault that I do not pray. If I would only begin to pray—prayer would come easier.

When I realize that YOU ARE ALMIGHTY GOD, and I am just another human being, another of Your creations, it is very hard for me to come before You.

It is only when I stop to realize that because of my belief in Your Son, Jesus Christ, You consider me important—that I can come to You, and come more often.

I ask You to help me to come to You more in prayer.

TEACH ME, LORD! TEACH ME TO PRAY!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Praising the Lord

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

[Psalms 107:8-9 NIV](#)

Lord,
It has become so easy just to sit and complain.
It has become so easy to become a junior prophet of doom.
Yet, how silly to do so, when I think of all the blessings and all the goodness of God.

Lord, I want to praise You now for all You have given me, for all that You are.

When I face it, Lord, it is You who satisfies my soul. It is You, Lord, who fills the vacuum inside of me.

Lord, forgive me for being negative.

Accept, now, my praise and thanks for being so wonderful!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Trusting Him

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

[Hebrews 4:14-16 NIV](#)

Dear Lord,
Thank You, Lord!
You always make me feel welcome when I stop to pray.
Sometimes I'm burdened with cares—wearily I move ahead.
Often, Lord, I am frightened.
When I commit my way to You, I am no longer afraid.
What a comfort to know that You care and that You answer prayer.
Make this week unfold to Your glory.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Strength and Weakness

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

[Ephesians 6:10 NIV](#)

Dear God,

It is so good of You to remind me of important matters in many different ways, but especially through Your Word.

There are times when I feel very weak, times when I feel strong.

There are times when I feel capable of attacking any problem that my leadership demands.

Then there are times when the burden of responsibility becomes overpowering.

Father, whether it be moments of weakness or moments of strength, may I realize that my strength does come from Your mighty power within me.

Thank You for reminding me of this truth.

Help me to relax in the calmness and security that I can do all things through Christ whose mighty power is working in me.

Because I know myself, I'll need reminding again—that my strength is in the Lord.

Remind me again, Lord.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Ties of Love

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority

[Colossians 2:2-10 NIV](#)

Dear God,
You have said it dearly.
You have said it well.
Help me to live it!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

The Holy Spirit

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

[Galatians 5:25-26 NIV](#)

Father,

I know that I should let the Spirit of God be the power in my life. Then it would be easy to follow His leading.

But, Lord, when You say in *every* part of my life, that takes in some pretty rough situations. And then again, You and I are the only two who honestly know about these areas, therefore, my inner failures are no real surprise to You. In spite of knowing them, You still love me and want to lead me.

Sometimes I look for honors and popularity, and sometimes my motivation is wrong.

Maybe that's what brings the jealousy and hard feelings.

But if I don't look for popularity and honor and You give them to me because You choose to, then people seem to accept it.

Help me to follow the Holy Spirit's leading—not looking out of personal ambition but accepting that which He gives to me.

Thanks an awful lot for considering *me* worthwhile enough to even bother to lead.

Really, God, You do amaze me!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

The Right Time

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

*a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.*

[Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 NIV](#)

Lord,

Many times each day I say, "What time is it?"

As I look at this passage of Scripture, Father, I say, "What time is it?"

Lord, allow me to do the right thing at the right time.

Help me to be so close to You that I will know what time it is.

Your Son came to us in the fullness of Your time.

May my life reflect the proper usage of the fullness of time.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Attitude

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him in the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

[Philippians 2:5-11 NIV](#)

Dear Lord,

Sometimes it is so very hard not to demand and cling to that which I think I deserve and that which seems rightfully mine.

But when I think, Father, that Your Son gave up His very right as God and laid that right aside in order to die a criminal's death on a cross for me, then I understand what it means truly to humble myself.

Help me, Lord, not always to fight for what I feel I deserve—and often don't.

Help me, Lord, to think of my responsibilities as well as my rights.

May I be grateful that I have already bowed my knee and opened my heart to You and to Your Son, Christ Jesus.

Thank you, Father, for what Your Son, Christ, has done for me.

May the attitude that He had, be the attitude that controls my inner life as well as my outward dealings with people,

even those people, Lord, who, for me, aren't too lovable.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

A Truly Good Wife

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. . . .

She is clothed strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."

[Proverbs 31:10-12, 25-31 NIV](#)

Dear God,

I have thanked You for many things, but at times I have forgotten to thank You for the person on this earth who means the most to me—my beloved.

Lord, one day we said to each other, "In sickness and in health. . . ."

Through Your love that promise has become a living commitment.

Help me to show and to share my love.

Thank You for giving me one *without* whom my life would have been lonely and *with* whom my life has been worthwhile!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Wisdom

Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe.

[Proverbs 28:26 NIV](#)

Dear God,

Help me to realize that Your wisdom is that which I should seek after.

Teach me the principles of good judgment and common sense.

Instill in me the longing to seek after You, and help me to avoid the trap of trusting myself above that which You have taught me.

May I be wise in Your sight, and may others realize that my wisdom comes from You.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Forgiveness and Mercy.

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. . . .

[Ephesians 2:4-6 NIV](#)

God,

As I read these verses I realize that I am undeserving of Your forgiveness.

I also realize that it was Your gracious mercy that brought Christ to the cross, to the grave, and, gratefully, from the empty tomb, to save me from my guilt and sin.

O God, I am astonished when I think of the person I could be if only I would allow the truth of Your Resurrection to come alive in me.

I am thankful that You are rich in mercy, so rich that there is enough mercy for everyone in the world if they simply believe in your Son, Christ!

Help me share that merciful forgiveness of what You have done for men and women everywhere.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

The Word of God

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

[Psalms 119:11 NIV](#)

Dear God,

Help me to realize the authority and power of the Scriptures.

Help me to realize that the Word of God is the base for my life—not only morally, but intellectually as well.

Help me to take time to hide the Word of God in my heart

—

so I can draw upon its resources,
so I can refill my own life by its power,
so it will always be with me,

That through the Word of God I might find the strength I need to face my job.

You have given me a high office.

May the power and strength of the Word of God make me ever aware of my responsibilities to my neighbors and to You.

Help me, Lord, to live a life that represents my Christian belief, powerfully.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Being Faithful: Part II

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

[Matthew 25:23 NIV](#)

Lord,

It seems that the word “faithful” runs through Your Word so much—

Faithful to You

Faithful to my wife

Faithful to my family

Faithful to my friends

Faithful to my country

Faithful to my belief in the Christian philosophy

Father, here You ask me to be faithful over a few things, even some small things.

In all honesty, sometimes it is very hard to be faithful. Yet when I am faithful over these small things, You put me over many things.

Thank You for Your faithfulness to me, O Lord. Forgive me for my neglect in not thanking You for Your greatness.

I want to enter into the joys of the Lord and have the happiness of Yourself in my heart.

I want to be a good and faithful servant to You.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Commitment

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

[Proverbs 16:3 NIV](#)

Father,

Sometimes it is very hard to commit what I am doing unto You.

If I can only realize that if I will do this—
You will help me to establish
the thoughts
the thought patterns
the ideas
the creativeness

I need to handle properly the problems that life brings to me.

Why should it be hard to commit my works to You?

I have already committed my soul to You, Lord.

I have already committed my life to You, Lord.

I need Your help in committing the very works of my daily schedule into Your hands.

Thank You, God, for accepting my commitment. Help me to share with others the importance of a total commitment to You.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Reconciliation Through Christ

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ...

[2 Corinthians 5:19 NIV](#)

Father,

I cannot read this passage of Scripture without being awed at the fact that—

You, Almighty God, were in Christ
As He was born in a manger,
As He died on that cross,
As He arose from the dead.

To think that I can be reconciled to You, the great God of the Universe, is too much to comprehend.

I thank You, God, for reconciling me unto Yourself.

Help me to be a person that causes people to be reconciled to each other.

Help me in the world in which I live to share the fact that Christ can reconcile people unto Himself, and that reconciliation will bring

Peace on earth and goodwill toward all!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Loyalty.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

[1 Corinthians 13:7 NIV](#)

Dear God,

In a time of history when true love and true loyalty are hard to find, I look at Your Word and find a clear pattern.

In Your Word, Lord, there are proofs of love.

May I evidence those proofs of love to those around me.

Teach me to be able to discern, Lord, those people who really love me and the ones who are truly loyal to me.

Help me to know those who double-talk, those who feign loyalty on one hand, but are motivated impurely on the other.

Give me love. Give me loyalty. Teach me to stand for those about whom I care.

Develop in me a sensitivity that allows me to discern true love and true loyalty in those who are important to what I am, and what I do.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Christmas: Part II

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. . . .

[Isaiah 9:6 NIV](#)

Dear God,

For a year now we've said You've had a better idea. Christmas is the evidence of that better idea.

Your Son was given unto us in the form of a child, born as a child.

We celebrate this day, the birthday of the child, but we also realize that the Son of God is eternal.

As He lived, died upon a cross, and rose from the dead—that Babe in a manger became the Risen Savior.

May we reaffirm the fact that only through our trust and faith in this Jesus may we have the one gift that surpasses all—

The gift of eternal life as a member of “God’s Forever Family.”

We know that if the Son was not given, Your only begotten Son, a child, could not have been born.

We do not bow our heads to coo at a baby in swaddling clothes in a manger—

We lift our eyes to Heaven where Your Son, Christ, sits at Your right hand.

We say to You,

“Thank You, Sir, for Your unspeakable gift. May we not only accept Him but serve Him with all our hearts!”

In the Name of Jesus, the Son that was given, and the baby that was born,

AMEN

Criticism

Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is the rebuke of a wise judge to a listening ear.

[Proverbs 25:12 NIV](#)

Dear God,

The hardest thing for me to figure out about criticism is its validity.

Is it truth—or is somebody irritated by me?

Is it something about me—or something I do that bothers them?

Or—are they really talking about the issue?

I really don't like to be criticized unless it can help.

Teach me to accept criticism and then discern if it is valid or not.

God, You have done so much for me.

You can keep the badge—if I can grow enough to understand its principle.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Grace

If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.

[Exodus 33:13 NIV](#)

Dear God,

You have been good to me! You have showed me so much of Your grace already.

Now I need to know Your way. I also want to know You in a deeper way.

God, I have a great responsibility
to You,
to myself,
to this organization.

Although we have not always acted as Your people and often disgust You with things we do and say—Your forgiving power is great.

I pray that this organization, beginning with me, starts to show evidence that we really want to be people who are led and directed by God.

Encourage those who stand true and strong.

Assist those who fall lame and weak.

And Lord, give me the grace and the knowledge and the wisdom to lead these, Thy people.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Constructive Wounds

Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

[Proverbs 27:6 NIV](#)

Father,

It is unpleasant for me to be wounded.

Whether the wound is physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual, it always hurts.

If a friend loves me, cares about me, and tells me something for my own benefit that wounds me, May I then accept that wound as constructive—Accept the feeling of sorrow—

And learn the lesson of instruction.

Teach me also, Father, to be aware of my enemies and their flattering kisses, the kisses of pretense.

You are my best friend, Father, and I realize that the wounds You allow are for my own benefit.

Help me to accept constructive wounds.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Reverence

Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge.

The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.

[Proverbs 14:26-27 NIV](#)

Lord,

Some of the simplest things escape us.

My actions and my basic philosophy say that I have great Reverence for You.

Father, is this really true of me?

You have impressed upon me by these Scripture verses the importance of having real Reverence for You.

The inner strength that I need and must have—the source of life that must come from me—can come from Reverence for You.

Father, my children will never have that place of Reverence and security, if they do not see the example of it in me.

You are worth much more in my finite Reverence but I give it to You with all my heart!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Kind Words

Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

[Proverbs 16:24 NIV](#)

Father,

With all of the sourness and tartness in today's world, help *my* words to be words like honey.

May they be sweet and honest.

May I commend and bless in such a way that the results are enjoyable and healthful.

Cause me to realize, Lord, that kind words are not always words that sound kind.

Sometimes kind words reprimand while at other times they are a soft disagreement.

May I understand that kind words must come out of a heart that has kindness in it.

Give me the right kind of kindness in my heart to put forth the right kind of words.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Mistakes: Part I

Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

[Proverbs 17:9 NIV](#)

Lord,

It is so easy to remember mistakes and so hard to forgive the mistakes of others.

If love is in control, it will cause me to forget and forgive those mistakes.

Lord, I need also to forget my own mistakes. Help me not to have guilt feelings for doing wrong. Remind me to ask Your forgiveness and then forgive myself—as You have forgiven me.

May I not be one who nags or is a constant source of negation—causing those around me to want to leave my company.

Help me to be one, Lord, who not only forgets mistakes, but works to build up the people around me in such a way that through Your strength shown in my life they will be drawn closer to You, rather than farther away.

Help this prayer, O Lord, to be an action prayer in my daily existence.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Including Peter

“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

[Mark 16:6-7 NIV](#)

Dear Lord,

How could the angel say, “including Peter”?

This Peter who

denied Christ three times—This man, who did not really believe the Resurrection was coming—This man whose life in the last minutes of Christ’s life, was against Christ.

How could the angel say, “including Peter”?

Then I stop and think, Lord, that often I am the one who is Peter.

I am the one who because of the sin in my life, because of my attitude or my action, turns against

You, and You always say to me, “including Peter.”

Thank You most of all for being able to say, “including Peter,” and for letting that Peter be me.

In Jesus’ Name, AMEN

The Way, the Truth, the Life

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

[John 14:6 NIV](#)

Dear God,

No man could make that statement unless he be of You. In fact, only Your Son could make that statement.

When I try to comprehend that Jesus, Himself, is the sum of

THE WAY

THE TRUTH

THE LIFE—

It makes me realize my need to look to Him for direction.

I need to look to Him!

As Christ is the light of the world, I am to be a light for Him.

May I also point others to Him

by being THE WAY to others by my lifestyle,

by being THE TRUTH by my sincere integrity,

and by being THE LIFE by the breath of His Spirit in me.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Thanksgiving

Proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.

[Psalms 92:2 NIV](#)

Dear God,

What a simple request.

How little time it would take to do what is asked in this verse.

It seems so easy to make this prayer, a prayer of thanksgiving for Your kindness, a prayer of rejoicing for Your faithfulness.

Lord, help me to apply more than just the theory of this verse.

Help me to actually pray the kind of prayer Your words suggest.

Be with me in my relationship to others so that I balance thanksgiving for kindness and rejoicing for faithfulness.

Remind me, O God, to talk to You each morning and evening and—

“Thank You for Your kindness!”

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Significance

*When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is
mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that
you care for them?*

[Psalms 8:3-4 NIV](#)

Father,

As I walk alone at night and look up into the sky and see
the stars, the moon, the cloud formations, and realize how
small this earth really is, it stuns me!

Then I try to comprehend how small I *am* on this very
small planet, in a very small solar system, in the vast
universe.

How can You even be interested in me enough to hear my
prayers?

How can You be concerned about the plan for my life?

How can You be concerned about the feelings of my soul?

And yet You are.

And it amazes me even more to know that Jesus Christ
came to this little planet to redeem puny little me.

Thank You, God, for making me significant, and for paying
such a price to do so.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Mistakes: Part II

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper. . . .

[Proverbs 28:13 NIV](#)

Father,

Who would be ignorant enough not to admit mistakes?

Yet, Lord, sometimes I realize that this verse is in the Bible for a reason.

Thank You for this verse.

Lord, it immediately stops me from beginning a pattern of being afraid to say I'm wrong.

To become Your child, I had to admit my mistakes and my own unworthiness and sinfulness.

Now I can experience not only the joy of forgiveness from You, but I am able to face myself as an imperfect person—knowing that You love me anyway.

May I not be afraid to show my imperfections to others.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Being Joyful

Rejoice always.

[1 Thessalonians 5:16 NIV](#)

Lord,

When I first read this verse I felt like saying, “You’ve got to be kidding!” *Always* is a powerful word.

How am I to be joyful?

Do You mean joyful inside?

Do You mean a joyful spirit?

Do You mean joyful outwardly?

Do You mean joyful actions?

The truth of this verse is that You are right—but then, *You are God*.

Remember, I am human.

I’ll give it my best if You will help me.

In Jesus’ Name, AMEN

Time: Part I

My times are in your hands

[Psalms 31:15 NIV](#)

Father,

As time passes for me on this earth I realize more and more that not only is my time in Your hands, my life is in Your hands.

You have allowed me the ability to make decisions, the ability to think.

And yet, as God, You are more than just there—You are alert, alive, responsible.

Thank You for being the kind of God that has not just let me stagger around this earth as some unknown computerized number.

Thank You for enabling me to commit to You my very being, knowing that You care and that Your concern is not only for my time here on earth—which is of importance to me now—but for my time in Heaven—which is to come.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Hope

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

[1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NIV](#)

Lord,

What a frightening phrase, God, "Do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope."

I realize, Christ, that if You had not died upon the cross, been buried, and risen again from the dead for my sins,

I WOULD HAVE NO HOPE.

My hope is also in Your Second Coming.

You will someday come back again, to take me with You, forever.

Lord, that is almost too much for me to comprehend!

Thanks, God, for giving me hope, HOPE through Your Son, and the realization that You actually want to have me with You, forever.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Anxiousness

Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up.

[Proverbs 12:25 NIV](#)

Father,

There are times that all of us become anxious.

There are times when we all feel a heaviness in our souls.

We should know better, but it happens to all of us.

Dear God, help me to be one that encourages others, not simply for the benefit of lifting them up, but with the hope of teaching myself the lesson that the end result of anxiousness is usually negative.

Thank *You* for being my encouragement!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Fearing Death

In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality.

[Proverbs 12:28 NIV](#)

Dear God,

One of the things I really like about You is that You think long-term.

I know this verse means more than life on earth—it refers to life after death.

You are logical, God: Why should I fear death if it does not end life—if it begins Eternal Life?

But Lord, You and I know that when that plane bounces in turbulent weather, when my car skids across the ice, when I cannot reach my wife for hours on the telephone, when my children do not return when they are supposed to,

I DO FEAR.

Lord, maybe I should be more godly. Sir, with Your help, I will try.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Priorities

. . . and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

[Colossians 3:10-11 NIV](#)

Father,

Sometimes I use the excuse that anything brand new is hard to learn and thus avoid the simplicity of these verses.

Help me to learn more and more to *be* and *do* what is right.

Help me to pattern myself to be more like Your Son, Christ.

May my priorities be adjusted so that the most important factor in my life, or anyone's life, is to know Christ as Savior.

Teach me to avoid the trappings of man's status symbols.

May I, through my conversation, assure others that Your Son is equally available to all others who believe in Him.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Doing

Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, for each one should carry their own load.

[Galatians 6:4-5 NIV](#)

Father,

I wonder how often I work and do things out of guilt—You know, don't You?

I wonder how often I try to achieve something for You when I am really trying to “overachieve” someone else—You know, don't You?

Sometimes I strive for personal satisfaction without realizing that satisfaction can be supplied by doing my best and completely fulfilling my responsibilities.

Father, I am glad you have offered me the possibility of failure because we all have faults.

I am happy that Your Word allows for my nonperfection.

Lord, help me avoid a rigid complex of perfection, yet help me balance this with a high goal to do my best.

Teach me to be happy that I am myself and that “par for the course” is not beating someone else, but playing against my own assets and liabilities.

It's just like You not to put pressure on me, but lovingly to strengthen me and urge me to move on!

—You know, don't You?

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Attitude: Part II

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had.

[Romans 15:5 NIV](#)

Dear Lord,

You have described a situation in this verse that would be ideal.

If I lived the attitude of Christ all the time, and my neighbors lived the same attitude, we would have complete harmony.

But, Lord, You especially know how very human I am, and that often my attitudes are not right.

I am accountable to You for my attitudes and my actions, and I pray that You will help me to live the attitude of Christ in my relationships with people.

May this especially be true in my relationship with my family.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

The Right Living

You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine.

[Titus 2:1 NIV](#)

Father,

You tell me to speak up. Do You realize how difficult it is for me to speak up?

It is hard enough for me to “flesh out” the right kind of living, and to speak up for it *really* puts me on the line.

Father, teach me to balance the need for speaking and the need for living.

Give me the wisdom to do so in a manner that presents Jesus as the Truth.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Worries and Care

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

[1 Peter 5:7 NIV](#)

Father,

When I read this verse I breathe a sigh of relief because, theoretically, it is fantastic.

The problem is not with You.

The problem is with me.

I am not always able to release the worries and concerns that I have, nor am I able to comprehend the fact that You are watching *everything* that concerns me.

How much easier life would be and how much less pressure I would be under if I were able to experience this verse daily.

Thank You for putting this verse in the Bible, and thank You for its meaning.

I pray that I will practice it more and more.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

The Bible

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

[2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV](#)

Lord,

There it is—clear and understandable.

The Word of God is Your Book and has in it the principles
to teach me what is true,
to straighten me out,
to show me what is wrong in my life.

I believe this, Lord. You know I do.

But why, then, do I have so much trouble in taking time to
open the Bible and to read it?

I need to be reminded that if I read Your Word more, I
would be better prepared and equipped for daily life.

Father, I will try to read it and live it more.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Spiritual Danger

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

[1 Corinthians 16:13-14 NIV](#)

Father,

We often think of danger—physical danger, emotional danger, financial danger—but we seldom really concentrate on the fact that there is spiritual danger.

Help me to be aware that there are those philosophies, ideas, and conducts that would endanger my relationship with You.

Father, may I balance that defense of being alert for spiritual danger, with the offense of standing, acting, being, and doing.

Give me the balance, Lord, of welding these two thoughts.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Values

Better a small serving of vegetables with love than a fattened calf with hatred.

[Proverbs 15:17 NIV](#)

Dear God,

Keep my values straight and—when they drift—help me bring them back, dead center.

Father, it is important for me to understand the great worth of those who love me, and not to be awed by position, possession, or the things of this world.

Teach me not to sacrifice commitment to people and my beliefs in order to get something “special.”

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Goodness and Purity.

To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.

[Titus 1:15 NIV](#)

Dear God,

Really, now, it is awfully hard to see goodness and purity in everything.

But, then, how pure is *my* heart?

God, I know my views are colored—
by my own motivation,
by my own mind,
by my own philosophies.

Father, help that base to be pure.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

What is Right

Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.

[Proverbs 19:27 NIV](#)

Lord,

Your Word has taught me certain principles, a base upon which to build my life.

Yet, sometimes, I hear ideas and concepts that sound interesting, and, occasionally, they make sense even though I know they are against what You have said is Truth.

Father, help me only to *know* what is right, but to *be* what is right.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Christmas: Part III

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given

[Isaiah 9:6 NIV](#)

Dear God,
On Christmas day, year after year,
we celebrate,
we holiday,
we party,
we stuff ourselves,
we give,
we receive,
we decorate trees,
we hang stockings,
we kiss under mistletoe,
we divide our presents into three groups—those we keep,
those we exchange, and those we give to someone else next
year.

None of these are wrong in themselves; some are even
beautiful.

Yet if they become paramount, we blindly miss the real
meaning of Christ's birth.

Sometimes, Father, we go overboard about the "Child."

May we realize that Christ was born not just to coo at—
lying in swaddling clothes in a manger in Bethlehem or a
plastic crib on a town square.

Christ is Your Son given to us, placed by You in a human
family to serve, to live, to die on a cross, and to come alive
again.

Thank You for this unutterable gift. He is what Christmas is
all about.

Help us to enjoy all the expressions of Christmas, but may
we wholly comprehend that through our trust in Him we
have the one gift that surpasses all others—the gift of

belonging—belonging to God as a member of His “Forever Family.”

Thank You, God, for caring so much.

In the Name of Jesus, the Son that was given and the Child that was born,

AMEN

Strengthening

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God

[Isaiah 41:10 NIV](#)

Father,

As we look ahead to a year of uncertainty, a year of doubts, it is reassuring to know that You are my God.

Father, it overwhelms me that YOU are *my* God!

The God of Creation is my own God!

Stay with me, Father, even though at times I am sure I am trying.

I pray that You will continue to strengthen and help me.

At the beginning of this new year I pledge You my love. I desire to live that love for You in my daily relationships with people.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Growth

And God permitting, we will do so.

[Hebrews 6:3 NIV](#)

Father,

It is a time for growth.

We cannot continue to repeat the basics of the Christian faith over and over again.

We need to inhale the sweet promise of new horizons which will result in greater depth and understanding of the fact that God is here, and involved in our daily battle with life itself.

Father, it is time we stopped repeating doctrine and went on with the vital job of living the Truth which we say we believe. Help us learn these “other things.”

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Benediction

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

[Hebrews 13:20-21 NIV](#)

Father,

I have heard ministers use this benediction in church, but seeing it in front of my own eyes and trying to grasp the fantastic truth of what You are saying makes me realize how great Your written Word is when it comes *alive* in my heart!

O God, equip me for what I need to do Your will.

May it be Your strength in me which allows me to accomplish that which pleases You.

Even more important, Father, may it be Your strength in me which allows me to *be* that which is pleasing to You.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Neighbors

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.

[James 2:8 NIV](#)

Father,

It is a clear command of Jesus Christ, and James has reminded me of what Christ said, not only to love my neighbor as much as myself—but to help and take care of my neighbors as I would help and take care of myself.

Lord, the comparison is clear. I will try—but I will need Your help!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Needs

Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

"Lord," they answered, "we want our sight!"

Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

[Matthew 20:32-34 NIV](#)

Dear God,

How wonderful that You said to the blind, "What do you want me to do for you?"

So often we ask You to do things for us.

It is beautiful to realize that You were moved by the needs of those who called upon You.

It is reassuring to know that You are moved by the needs of our own hearts as we call upon You.

We, too, want to see.

Thank You for touching us.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Overall Power

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

[Proverbs 16:33 NIV](#)

Dear Father,
Sometimes it is difficult to realize that Your overall power is just that—overall power!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

The Holy Spirit: Part II

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

[Ephesians 1:13-14 NIV](#)

Dear God,

I know that I have been saved by trusting Your Son, Christ.

These verses reaffirm that the Holy Spirit of God actually marked *me* as belonging to You, guaranteed His promises, and put His seal upon me.

It is so easy to think of the Holy Spirit as an influence—but I realize that He is as much God as are the Father and the Son.

Spirit of God, I recognize Your Personhood and thank You.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

A Man Sent From God

There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

[John 1:6 NIV](#)

Father,

You know my name is not John but I want to be a person sent from You.

I want to be a person sent from You who can represent You by word and deed—to put forth the reality of a living Christ.

Father, help me to be a person who is sent from You.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Faith: Part I

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

[James 2:17 NIV](#)

Father,

So often I think about and speak about faith.

Lately I have seen people around me who do not make such a noise about faith. These people show by their works what they are.

By their life they trumpet forth the philosophy that grips their souls.

By their willingness to go further than is expected and by their concern—they are saying that they have faith.

I wish to retain my emphasis upon faith, Father. Please help me to put forth the reality of faith with works—action!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Greatest Wealth

The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, without painful toil for it.

[Proverbs 10:22 NIV](#)

Father,

You have told us to work.

You have told us to work hard, as one who does not need to be ashamed.

As we go about our daily work, Father, help us to remember that—

all we earn in life—

all we hope to have in life—

must be in the perspective that Your blessing is our greatest wealth.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Everything

*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world,
and all who live in it*

[Psalms 24:1 NIV](#)

Father,

I must apologize for the times I think of You only as a Heavenly being—as the great Creator of the Universe sitting upon a throne in Heaven—looking down upon me on this earth.

I must realize that You live in my heart, and that everything in all the world is Yours.

May I, with proper humility and reverence, live on this planet in such a way that my life will enhance, not degrade it.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Our Nation

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.

[Proverbs 14:34 NIV](#)

Dear God,

I thank You for the privilege I have not only as a citizen of "God's Country," but as a citizen of the United States of America.

I am grateful for the pride I feel when I think of what this Nation has accomplished.

Father, do not let this great Country drift from the true spiritual moorings which made us what we are.

May I, as a person, and this Nation as a whole, be guided by moral and spiritual objectives. May our righteousness exalt this Nation.

Guide us so that we do not follow the path of expediency and find reproach upon us.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Victory Through God

The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord.

[Proverbs 21:31 NIV](#)

Father,

It is important to be prepared.

You have taught us in the Word of God the importance of discipline, of being alert, and the importance of hearing suggestions from counselors.

Yet we realize that when all things are said and done, and the conflict is finally over, the victory does indeed come from You and You alone.

As we go about our daily tasks help us to remember to look to You for the victory.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Love: Part II

Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

[Romans 13:10 NIV](#)

Lord,

You tell me that LOVE is “the only law” that I need, and I am aware of the importance You place upon this word, LOVE, as I read this verse.

God LOVED me first, Christ LOVED me by going to the cross, and the Spirit of God LOVES me enough to comfort me now.

Help me, Father, to wrap my life up in LOVE that I might show forth this LOVE in my life to others.

In Jesus’ Name, AMEN

The Wisest Life

I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.

[Proverbs 4:11 NIV](#)

Lord,

This verse is unquestionably true.

It is an obvious, overt, dear statement of fact.

Yet, who can live up to this at all times?

We view this as an awesome responsibility—when we should really look at it as an opportunity and a privilege.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Glory and Honor

*Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

[1 Timothy 1:17 NIV](#)

Father,

I know that You are full of wisdom and that You are the true God.

You are the true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the true God of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and *my* God, as well.

May I give You glory and honor not only when it seems appropriate, but when You deserve it—at all times!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

God's Truth

God's solid foundation stands firm

[2 Timothy 2:19 NIV](#)

Dear God,

In this age when people fear bombs that can destroy mountains—accusations that can destroy lives—it is reassuring to know that there is something that cannot be changed:

THE TRUTH OF GOD.

Thank You for showing me the way, the truth, and the life.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Time: Part II

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

[Psalms 90:12 NIV](#)

Father,

Teach me the value of properly using my time.

In my attempts at enjoying life, may I not waste that of which I have so precious little—the moments of each day.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Guidance

A person's steps are directed by the Lord. How then can anyone understand their own way?

[Proverbs 20:24 NIV](#)

Lord,

As human beings, we always want to know the *why* of everything.

We want to put all the pieces together ourselves, and know all the details before they happen—or after they have happened—in our lives.

But if we really believe that You are guiding our lives and leading us along life's way, we will not always try to figure You out.

Forgive me for my human nature that questions. I will do my best to question as little as I can.

Help me, Father, to accept Your guiding steps and to walk in them.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Thanksgiving and Praise

Shout for joy to the Lord all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

[Psalms 100:1-5 NIV](#)

Dear God,

I am so happy that I can be thankful and grateful to You not only for what You have done for me, but for the kind of God You are.

I thank You that You are not only a mighty, powerful God to be respected and feared by men, but a God in whom we can rejoice, and before whom we come gladly.

I come before You now, Lord, with joyful singing, thanksgiving, and praise!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Respect, Love, Fear, Honor

Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

[1 Peter 2:17 NIV](#)

Father,

Teach me to put into practice these action words—

RESPECT

LOVE

FEAR

HONOR.

Lord, in Your way, teach me the priority of the value concepts behind the phrasing of these words.

O God, may I live this verse in a real way.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Shaking Hands

Greet one another with a holy kiss

[Romans 16:16 NIV](#)

Lord,

How often do I shake someone's hand without recognizing him as a person—

a person who needs the warmth of sincerity, the warmth of concern, and the warmth of knowing that he or she is important to me.

Since this is Your command, Lord, I fully comprehend that this person is important to You or You would never have encouraged me to shake his hand warmly—You would never have shown Your great love by the act of joining our hands with Yours through the nail-pierced hands of Your Son.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Faith: Part II

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

[Hebrews 11:6 NIV](#)

Dear God,

You know that I wish to have faith. But I am constantly challenged because so much that I face on this earth demands that I accept things based upon certain acts of reason.

Father, in spite of all the logical proofs and discussions about Your existence, I realize that I still must take that final step of “saving” faith.

Help me, Father, to take that step, and teach me to have faith and daily dependence on You.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

A Better Citizen

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers,
but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of
his household*

[Ephesians 2:19 NIV](#)

Dear God,

I am especially appreciative of the fact that I am a citizen
of Your Country.

I realize my heritage as an American and that I am a
citizen of this country because I was born here.

I am also a citizen of Your Country, Lord, because I was
born into Your Family by the act of faith and through
receiving Jesus Christ.

I am grateful that I am not a foreigner to You.

Help me to be a better citizen, both here in America, and
in Your Country.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Omnipotence

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

[Colossians 1:17 NIV](#)

Father,

When I think of the omnipotence of Your Son, Jesus Christ, I think of it as a doctrine and a theological idea that may sometimes be difficult to understand.

But Father, when You say the power of Christ holds everything together, it must also mean *me* as well.

Your omnipotent power holds not only the vastness of the universe and the many worlds flung into space—*it holds me*.

Just me—and those around me—and those around the world.

You are a God who is big enough to hold the universe together, and still concerned enough to hold me together.

Thank You, dear Lord.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Seeing His Word

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

[Psalms 119:18 NIV](#)

Father,
Your Word is there day after day—
sitting upon a shelf,
gathering dust upon a table,
lying in that desk drawer.

Teach me to open my eyes that I might see those
wonderful things Your Word has to offer me, Lord.

Open my eyes, I pray, to things I have read time and
again, but have never really seen.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Faithfulness

Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

[Psalms 36:5 NIV](#)

Dear Lord,
The heavens I can see.
The clouds I can see.

But to comprehend, Lord, that Your love is *that* large, and Your faithfulness goes further than the clouds above—as I look up even now, it amazes me!

Your Word tells us in another place, “great is Thy faithfulness.”

It certainly must be, to be *that* extending.

Thank You for Your steadfast and great love, and for proving Your limitless faithfulness.

In Jesus’ Name, AMEN

Living as Christ

But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

[1 John 2:5-6 NIV](#)

Father,
The standard You set for me is impossible—
I cannot live as Your Son did, for He was perfect.
Yet, I know that even Christ was tempted.
May He be my goal—
May He be my aim—
May I strive to live as He lived, and each day, learn to love
You, my God, more and more.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

The Righteous

The wicked become a ransom for the righteous, and the unfaithful for the upright.

[Proverbs 21:18 NIV](#)

Lord,

It is sometimes difficult, as I look around, to understand this verse.

I suppose this is because I have spiritual tunnel vision. I cannot see very far ahead.

Because You are God, You are not bothered by the twenty-twenty vision of human nature.

You have the ability to see beyond the close of nightfall, beyond the New Year's Eves of tomorrow and say, "The righteous will finally win."

And, Lord, I do believe it!

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Riches to Rags

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

[2 Corinthians 8:9 NIV](#)

Lord,

Your Son is the only one I know who would go riches to rags so that I might go rags to riches.

Because Your Son humbled Himself and became human, died the embarrassing death on the cross, and rose again from the dead—

I am, through faith, allowed to become His child. Father, Your Son was full of love and kindness.

Teach me the importance and the truth of allowing this love and kindness to radiate to others, with whom I come in contact in my daily life.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Godly People

Help, Lord, for no one is faithful anymore; those who are loyal have vanished from the human race.

[Psalms 12:1 NIV](#)

Father,

The cry of David is Your cry today.

In an age when people expect to be disappointed by insincerity in others, we are asked, "Where can dependable people be found?"

Lord, the answer, I believe, is in your people. People who depend upon You for their sustenance, their strength, and their power.

Be these things to me, Lord.

Help me be the kind of person who will ruin the averages about Your kind of godly people disappearing.

Thank You for being concerned about me enough to want me to be one of your people.

Guide me, I pray.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Interference

You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you.

[Galatians 5:7-8 NIV](#)

O Lord,

Isn't it interesting how sometimes I look to You as the source of my blessing?

And at other times I look to You as someone who is interfering in such a way that it causes me problems? I realize that this attitude toward You is unfair.

You have said in Your Word that You might chastise or purge people for their own good.

Each individual allows different things to interfere with his or her following the truth.

Father, I pray that with Your help the goal of freedom in Christ is a reachable goal.

Supply me with strength so that I will not excuse myself because something is interfering with my progress.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN

Words and Thoughts

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

[Psalms 19:14 NIV](#)

Lord,

My spoken words are more likely to be pleasing to You and to others, than my unspoken thoughts.

Pleasing unspoken thoughts—now that's a different story.

Unspoken thoughts are often just that—thought I do not want to put into words.

Often I feel a person can read unspoken thoughts, and You *always* can de-motivate them.

Father, make both my spoken words and my unspoken thoughts pleasing to You.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN